

In Re: Application of: Presby, D.W.
Means For Coupling Conduit

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A coupler for coupling drainage conduit comprising:

a first arcuate coupling member and a second arcuate coupling member hingingly attached each to one end of the other at a hinge region, said hinge region having a means for regulating the amount of flex permitted at said hinge region comprising a bump or ridge which contacts a stopping surface to prevent excessive flexing of said hinge region;

a first cooperating attaching component attached to an outer end of said first arcuate coupling member opposite said hinge region; and

a second cooperating attaching component attached to an outer end of said second arcuate coupling member opposite said hinge region; and

wherein said coupler is wrappable around adjacent ends of aligned drainage conduit and said first and said second cooperating attaching components are attachable each to the other, thereby closing said coupler and securing the adjacent ends of aligned drainage conduit together in fluid flow communication.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The coupler of claim 1 wherein said first arcuate coupling member comprises:

at least one corrugation formed in said first arcuate coupling member, said at least one corrugation located and spaced to fit within and mate or interfit with at least one corrugation of corrugated drainage conduit.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The coupler of claim 1 wherein said second arcuate coupling member comprises:

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at least one corrugation formed in said second arcuate coupling member, said at least one corrugation located and spaced to fit within and mate or interfit with at least one corrugation of corrugated drainage conduit.

Claim 4 (original) The coupler of claim 1 wherein said first cooperating attaching component comprises:

a plurality of dents, detents, scorings, or ridges located thereon.

Claim 5 (original) The coupler of claim 4 wherein said second cooperating attaching component comprises:

a plurality of dents, detents, scorings, or ridges located thereon which cooperate with said dents, detents, scorings or ridges of said first cooperating attaching component to close and secure said coupler in a closed position.

Claim 6 (original) The coupler of claim 5 wherein the geometry of said pluralities of dents, detents, scorings, or ridges of each of said first and said second cooperating attaching components is such that said first and said second cooperating attaching components are irreversibly attachable once attached each to the other such that said coupler is not reusable.

Claim 7 (original) The coupler of claim 5 wherein the geometry of said pluralities of dents, detents, scorings, or ridges of each of said first and said second cooperating attaching components is such that said first and said second cooperating attaching components are detachable each from the other such that said coupler is reusable.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The coupler of claim 1 wherein the inside diameter of said coupler is about equal to or slightly greater than the outside diameter of drainage conduit being coupled by said coupler.

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Claim 9 (currently amended) The coupler of claim 1 comprising:

an elastic material disposed on the interior surface of each said first and said second arcuate coupling members of said coupler, which said elastic material is compressible against the outer surface of drainage conduits being coupled, to enhance the seal made by said coupler.

Claim 10 (original) The coupler of claim 1 comprising:

a means for regulating the amount of flex permitted of said first cooperating attaching component comprising:

a bump or ridge which contacts a stopping surface if said first cooperating attaching component is bent past alignment with a tangent to said outer end of said first arcuate coupling member.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended) The coupler of claim 1 wherein said first arcuate coupling member comprises:

a plurality of perforations in said first arcuate coupling member, wherein said plurality of perforations is located and spaced to mate or interfit with perforations of perforated drainage conduit.

Claim 13 (currently amended) The coupler of claim 1 wherein said second arcuate coupling member comprises:

a plurality of perforations in said second arcuate coupling member, wherein said plurality of perforations is located and spaced to mate or interfit with perforations of perforated drainage conduit.

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Claim 14 (currently amended) The coupler of claim 2 further comprising:
a plurality of perforations in said ~~plurality of corrugations~~ at least one corrugation, wherein said plurality of perforations is located and spaced to mate or interfit with perforations of perforated corrugated drainage conduit.

Claim 15 (currently amended) The coupler of claim 3 further comprising:
a plurality of perforations in said ~~plurality of corrugations~~ at least one corrugation, wherein said plurality of perforations is located and spaced to mate or interfit with perforations of perforated corrugated drainage conduit.

Claim 16 (currently amended) A coupler for coupling corrugated drainage conduit comprising:

a first arcuate coupling member and a second arcuate coupling member hingingly attached each to one end of the other at a hinge region, said hinge region having a means for regulating the amount of flex permitted at said hinge region comprising a bump or ridge which contacts a stopping surface to prevent excessive flexing of said hinge region;

a first cooperating attaching component attached to an outer end of said first arcuate coupling member opposite said hinge region; and

a second cooperating attaching component attached to an outer end of said second arcuate coupling member opposite said hinge region;

at least one corrugation formed in said first arcuate coupling member, and at least one corrugation formed in said second arcuate coupling member, said at least one corrugation of each said first and said second arcuate coupling members located and spaced to fit within and mate or interfit with at least one corrugation of corrugated drainage conduit; and

wherein said coupler is wrappable around adjacent ends of aligned drainage conduit and said first and said second cooperating attaching components are attachable each to the other, thereby closing said coupler and securing the adjacent ends of aligned drainage conduit together in fluid flow communication.

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Claim 17 (original) The coupler of claim 16 wherein said first cooperating attaching component comprises:

a plurality of dents, detents, scorings, or ridges located thereon.

Claim 18 (original) The coupler of claim 17 wherein said second cooperating attaching component comprises:

a plurality of dents, detents, scorings, or ridges located thereon which cooperate with said dents, detents, scorings or ridges of said first cooperating attaching component to close and secure said coupler in a closed position.

Claim 19 (original) The coupler of claim 18 wherein the geometry of said pluralities of dents, detents, scorings, or ridges of each of said first and said second cooperating attaching components is such that said first and said second cooperating attaching components are irreversibly attachable once attached each to the other such that said coupler is not reusable.

Claim 20 (original) The coupler of claim 18 wherein the geometry of said pluralities of dents, detents, scorings, or ridges of each of said first and said second cooperating attaching components is such that said first and said second cooperating attaching components are detachable each from the other such that said coupler is reusable.

Claim 21 (currently amended) The coupler of claim 16 wherein the inside diameter of said coupler is about equal to or slightly greater than the outside diameter of drainage conduit being coupled by said coupler.

Claim 22 (currently amended) The coupler of claim 16 comprising:

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an elastic material disposed on the interior surface of each said first and said second arcuate coupling members of said coupler, which said elastic material is compressible against the outer surface of the drainage conduits being coupled, to enhance the seal made by said coupler.

Claim 23 (previously amended) The coupler of claim 16 comprising:

a means for regulating an amount of flex permitted of said first cooperating attaching component comprising:

a bump or ridge which contacts a stopping surface if said first cooperating attaching component is bent past alignment with a tangent to said outer end of said first arcuate coupling member.

Claim 24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (currently amended) The coupler of claim 16 comprising:

a plurality of perforations in said ~~plurality of corrugations~~ at least one corrugation in said first and said second arcuate coupling members wherein said plurality of perforations is located and spaced to mate or interfit with perforations of perforated corrugated drainage conduit.

Claims 26 - 52 (canceled)

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